
U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of Virginia

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Former Airline Employee Pleads Guilty in Credit Card Scam

(Alexandria, VA) - Babatunde Shittu, age 45, of Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty today to a one count criminal information charging him with conspiring with others to sell credit cards stolen from the U.S. mail routed through Dulles International Airport. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the guilty plea after Shittu's appearance before United States District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee. Sentencing has been set for August 18, 2006.

According to court documents, Shittu, and co-conspirator Emmanuel Osho, were employed as ramp services clerks by United Airlines at Dulles International Airport. At various times between 2001 and 2005, Shittu and Osho stole bulk quantities of credit cards from the U.S. mail as the credit card mailings were routed through the airport on United commercial carriers for delivery to customers in Virginia and elsewhere on the east coast. In December 2004, Shittu sold approximately 50 stolen credit cards to another co-conspirator, Ademola Idowu. Idowu re-sold or distributed the stolen cards overseas and domestically resulting in more than \$350,000 in loss to banks.

The charges against Shittu arose from an investigation by the Postal Inspection Service of mail thefts and credit card losses linked to mailings routed through Dulles Airport, causing more than \$3.5 million in loss to at least seven different credit card companies and 56 credit unions. Idowu and Osho were sentenced in 2005 in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, each to 63 months in prison and each were required to make full restitution to the victims for their involvement in the credit card scam.

The investigation was conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service. Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie Bibighaus Hammerstrom prosecuted the case for the government.

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